

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-20 USIA-06 IO-04 SAM-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 111014Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT

SUBJ: SPINOLA RESIGNATION INCREASES CHANCES OF MORE RAPID DE-  
COLONIZATION OF ANGOLA WITH MOZAMBIQUE-STYLE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: HASTILY CONCEIVED AS A VEHICLE FOR LIBERATION GROUP  
LEADERS TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM WARFARE TO POLITICS, ANGOLA'S  
SECOND POST-COUP GOVERNMENT (FORMED SEPT. 4) WAS STILLBORN WHEN  
MPLA, FNLA AND UNITA ALL DECLINED TO JOINT AND THE GOVERNING  
JUNTA WAS FORCED TO CHOOSE RELATIVE UNKNOWNNS. WITH SPINOLA'S  
RESIGNATION PERMITTING ACCELERATED ANGOLAN "DECOLONIZATION",  
THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NEVER HAD REAL POLITICAL RE-  
SPONSIBILITIES - SOON MAY FIND ITSELF UNCERIMONIOUSLY DISBANDED  
AND REPLACED BY A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT SIMILAR TO THE MOZAM-  
BIQUE MODEL. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH NEITHER LIBERATION GROUP REPRESENTATIVES ABOARD NOR ANY  
REAL POLITICAL POWER, THE CURRENT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S CARETAKER  
CHARACTER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. GENERALLY HELD BY  
LOCAL OPINION TO BE OF MARGINALLY HIGER QUALITY THAN ITS  
SHORT-LIVED PREDECESSOR, ITS MEMBERS HAVE GENERALLY SERVED  
ONLY TO KEEP THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FUNCTIONING. IN SOME  
AREAS (HEALTH, EDUCATION) INCREASED AUTONOMY IS EVIDENT; IN  
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OTHERS (FINANCE) LISBON STILL APPEARS TO MAINTAIN A TIGHT REIN.

3. THE ACCELERATED TIMETABLE FOR ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE MADE POSSIBLE BY GEN. SPINOLA'S RESIGNATION HAS NUMBERED THE GOVERNMENT'S DAYS. JUNTA PRESIDENT COUTINHO'S CHIEF OF CABINET, ALVARO FRANCO, TOLD A CONSULATE OFFICER OCT. 2 THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN "OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS" AND WOULD SOON BE REPLACED BY A MOZAMBIQUE STYLE STRUCTURE. ACCORDING TO FRANCO THERE WILL BE A "HIGH COMMISSIONER" REPRESENTING TERMINAL PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY AND A PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTERS REPRESENTING THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS. ON OCT. 7 FRANCO TOLD ANOTHER CONSULATE OFFICER THAT JUNTA PRESIDENT ADM. COUTINHO'S RECENT TRIP TO LISBON (OCTOBER 4-5) RESULTED IN THE ADMIRAL RECEIVING EXPANDED POWERS INCLUDING "CONSIDERABLE" FREEDOM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LIBERATION GROUPS AND AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH FRANCO DID NOT MENTION NON-LIBERATION GROUP PARTICIPATION, ONE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S THREE "MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO", FERNANDO FALCAO, TOLD AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST OCT. 7 THAT LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES DEFINITELY WOULD BE INCLUDED.

4. FALCAO TOLD THE SAME SOURCE THAT THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN PLACE WITHIN THREE MONTHS AND AN ELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SITTING WITHIN AN ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS.

5. ALTHOUGH FALCAO HAS REFUSED TO DISCUSS HIS RECENT TRIP TO KINSHASA WITH JOURNALISTS, A WELL PLACED SOURCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SAYS FALCAO TALKED WITH MOBUTU BUT NOT ROBERTO. MOBUTU, HOWEVER, HAS REQUIRED THAT FALCAO NOT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE MEETING IN ORDER TO AVOID CRITICISM FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.  
KILLORAN

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